GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:386
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CONGESTION IN TELECOM NETWORK
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its latest report has expressed concern over the rise in congestion between the networks of private telecommunication companies including Bharti,Reliance and a Government owned Company,Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the level of congestion in networks of private telecommunication companies and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in urban and rural areas has exceeded beyond the benchmark fixed for it;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to maintain the level of congestion in networks according to the benchmarkfixed for it;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir,TRAI has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the Quality of Service benchmark of <0.5% for the parameter of Point of Interconnect (POI) congestion through monthly reports received from service providers. TRAI has expressed concern over the level of congestion between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and amongst the networks of private cellular mobile service providers.

(c) As per TRAI report of June 2008 details of the number of POIs where the level of congestion has exceeded the benchmark of 0.5% between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 94 out of total 11500 POIs.

(d) The month−wise details of the number of POIs where the level of congestion has exceeded the benchmark of 0.5% between the networks of private cellular mobile service providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and amongst the networks of private cellular mobile service providers for last three years i.e. 1.7.2005 to June 2008 are given in the Annexure.

(e)to (g)
(i) Direct interconnection among service providers is permitted.

(ii) TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure quality of service by basic service and cellular mobile service providers.These steps are given below:-

TRAI had issued a Quality of Service (QoS) regulation in July 2000 and subsequently modified in July 2005 so as to benchmark various QoS parameters for basic and cellular mobile services Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion parameter was also introduced for cellular mobile services.

TRAI had issued a direction on 29th November 2005 to all Cellular Mobile Service Providers to ensure, by 31st December 2005, that the quality of service parameters, including the level of POI congestion, in its network should be strictly with in the benchmark laid down by the Authority. On analysing the Performance Monitoring Report of the cellular mobile operators for the quarter ending December 2005, it was revealed that while there has been some improvement in meeting the QoS benchmarks there has been increase in the congestion at the POIs.The Authority,therefore,decided to issue show cause notices to those operators in whose network the number of POI having congestion above the benchmark have increased and accordingly issued show cause notices to six mobile operators on 06.03.2006.These operators have since moved TDSAT against the show cause notices and the matter is subjudice since March 2006.